The details are as under:—

(i) Km. 490/15-491/1 of National Highway-5 between Eluru and Denduluru stations: completed.

(ii) Km. 477/3-4 of National Highway-5 between Nuzvid and Vatluru stations: completed.

(iii) Km. 291.4 near Tuni— sanctioned

(iv) Km. 332.750 near Ellemanchalli - -do-

(v) Km. 344.885 near Bayyavaram - -do-

(b) and (c) All the road overbridges are scheduled for completion by December, 2003.

Power to issue Driving Licences

4533. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increasing rate of accidents involving motor vehicles is due to wanton and indiscriminate issue of driving licences;

(b) whether Government would relinquish its power to issue driving licences to technically competent and professional bodies, to be set up under the General Insurance industry who bear the brunt in settling huge compensation claims arising out of road accidents;

(c) whether in Europe and UK the power of issuing driving licences has been divested from Government authority; and

(d) whether Palkhiwala Committee had gone into disciplining the transport sector and if so, whether Government would consider implementing the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI]: (a) The Driving Licences are issued by Regional Transport Officers of State Governments. These are issued after necessary verifications and tests prescribed under the Motor Vehicle Act.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.